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FoodBank South Africa

FoodBank South Africa (FBSA) is a section 21 non-profit company launched in 2009 to eradicate hunger and build a food secure South Africa.

The organisation has a national footprint – with operations in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and Port Elizabeth – and is a member of the Global Foodbanking Network.

FBSA enjoys the support of many of the major food manufacturers and retailers and is recognised by the government as the leading national foodbanking network.

The organisation has contracts with the national Department of Social Development and national Department of Agriculture, and has drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for the provinces.

As a public private partnership, FBSA's board of governance includes the Minister of Social Development, Edna Molewa; prominent business leaders such as Gail Klintworth, the chairman of Unilever; "Venkat" Venkatachalam, the MD of Kellogg Company South Africa; and Suzanne Ackerman-Berman, the transformation director of Pick n' Pay. The chairman of FBSA's board of directors is William Mzimba, the chief executive of Accenture South Africa.

FBSA currently feeds over 66,000 beneficiaries a day via about 1,300 "agencies" – namely other non-profit organisations such as orphanages, shelters, old age homes and frail care centres, edu-care centres and HIV/Aids clinics.

The organisation has a fleet of 28 trucks and 4,000m² of warehouse space suitable for handling and dispatching large volumes of food.

In 2009, FBSA distributed about 5.6 million kilograms of food valued at R76m. This translates to close to 20 million meals at a cost to FBSA of less than R1 a meal.

Given that 89% of beneficiaries are black South Africans, FBSA is making a significant contribution to socio-economic development in South Africa and companies supporting FBSA can benefit by picking up points on their BEE scorecards and/or tax benefits.

FoodBank is proudly supported by many of the major food manufacturers and retailers and recognised by the government as the leading national foodbanking network.

Proud as we are to be helping to feed 66,000 people in our country, this is nothing more than a promising start. South Africa has 14.4 million people who are vulnerable to food insecurity. While we believe that by providing hunger relief we can address many of the socio-economic challenges facing our nation, our long-term vision is to eliminate hunger rather than to merely relieve it.

This will entail massively scaling the project by rolling out more food banks and implementing sustainable solutions through the procurement of food for the poor and the production of food by the poor for the open market.

Durban branch (and Pietermaritzburg satellite distribution centre)

The operation in Durban was formed through the amalgamation of a number of hunger-relief organizations in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Through the support of food donors including Albany Bakery, Unilever, Southern Sun Hotels, ABSA Stadium, Woolworths and Boxer Super Stores, **The Durban branch currently re-distributes more than 100 tons (100 000 kg) of good quality excess food each month.** This volume of food provides 198 000 meals per month to beneficiaries of the 140 social/welfare agencies serviced in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Agencies are located in Kwa-Mashu, Umzinyathi, Bhambayi, Umlazi, Amanzimtoti, Pinetown, Hillcrest, Umbumbulu, Hammarsdale, Wentworth, Lamontville, KwaNdengezi, Inanda, Ntuzuma, La Mercy, Verulam, Durban Central and Phoenix. Agencies in Pietermaritzburg are situated in Esigodini, Caluza, Mbali, Ashdown, Woodlands, Mpumza, Etafuleni, Scottsville, Snathing, Dambuza, Edendale, Elandskop, Mpophomeni, Mpumuza, Sobantu and Central Pietermaritzburg.

On daily basis, FoodBank trucks collect from various food suppliers and re-distribute food to more than 15 beneficiary organisations in Durban and in Pietermaritzburg.

Based on current Agency data¹, the Programme supports:

Number of Agencies		Number of people fed each month
Durban	110	33 000
Pietermaritzburg	30	6 000
TOTAL	140	39 000

Based on the nature of the current agencies, approximately 60% of those who benefit from the food distributed in KZN are children (infected or affected by Aids, abandoned, orphaned, abused, disabled and those in households with no income); 30% women (single unemployed mothers, the terminally ill and those caring for them, grandmothers caring for orphaned grandchildren, the disabled, the elderly and abused women seeking refuge); and 10% men (unemployed, the disabled, the elderly and the terminally ill).

Current programmes & activities

- **Food Rescue** – Research potential sources of food, lobby potential food donors against the practice of crushing and dumping excess product & collect all food from source. FoodBank has implemented a **“buy to give”** program – whereby food is procured from manufacturers and efficiently distributed to non-profit organisations at no cost.
 - **Food Support Programme** – Research into poverty levels within communities, assessment of community organisations within poverty stricken communities, redistribution of food to deserving non-profit organisations.
 - **Nutrition Education** – Nutrition workshops with all non-profit organisations to ensure good food hygiene and nutrition knowledge resulting in the preparation of healthy meals.
 - **Development Training** – Needs analysis workshops to determine what training and development activities are needed for the organisations to achieve food security, training to ensure progress towards food security.
 - **Ilima** - Food security through food gardening, by the community in cluster-groups
 - **Lunch Buddies** – A sandwich exchange programme between schools, whereby learners from advantaged schools donate sandwiches to learners from disadvantaged schools in order to provide support and encourage education.
 - **Volunteer Programme** – Provides corporate companies, government and civil society with an opportunity to get exposure to challenges facing the world over, also present them with opportunities to get involved in assisting to serve the community.
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Resources and Equipment

- The Durban operation is run from a 1088sqm warehouse in Briardene (North of Durban), and with a small operation in Pietermaritzburg (280sqm warehouse).
- Eight delivery vehicles trucks, which are specially designed with Thermo-cube to keep the food cool & fresh
- 10x5m Freezer/Cooler
- Employs 25 staff (Durban & Pietermaritzburg)

Administrative details

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